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# Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee)

**Summary record of the 28th meeting**
Held at Headquarters, New York, on Friday, 1 September 2006, at 3 p.m.

*Chairman*: Mr. Aliyev ..... (Azerbaijan)

## Contents

Election of officers

Comprehensive review of the whole question of peacekeeping operations in all their aspects (*continued*)

Completion of the Committee's work

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*The meeting was called to order at 3.10 p.m.*

**Election of officers**

1. **The Chairman** said that Mr. Andersson (Sweden) had been nominated by the Group of Western European and Other States for election as Vice-Chairperson of the Committee for the sixty-first session of the General Assembly.

2. *Mr. Andersson (Sweden) was elected Vice-Chairperson by acclamation.*

**Comprehensive review of the whole question of peacekeeping operations in all their aspects** (*continued*) (A/60/19/Add.1, A/60/877 and A/C.4/60/L.20)

3. **Mr. Awab** (Egypt), Rapporteur of the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations, introducing the Special Committee's report on its 2006 resumed session, contained in document A/60/19/Add.1, as well as draft resolution A/C.4/60/L.20, recalled that the Special Committee had decided to consider, during the sixtieth session of the General Assembly, the Secretary-General's strategy for victim assistance and the revised draft model memorandum of understanding between the United Nations and Member States contributing resources to United Nations peacekeeping operations, including a proposal on national investigations officers. To that end, it had established an open-ended Ad Hoc Working Group of Experts to consider issues of sexual exploitation and abuse in United Nations peacekeeping operations. At its resumed session the Special Committee had reviewed the findings of the Ad Hoc Working Group and had drawn up a number of proposals, recommendations and conclusions, which were contained in the report before the Committee.

4. As noted in the report, the two documents considered by the Ad Hoc Working Group had not been officially issued at the time of its meetings. The documents concerned were the draft United Nations policy statement and draft United Nations comprehensive strategy on assistance and support to victims of sexual exploitation and abuse by United Nations staff or related personnel, and the revised draft model memorandum of understanding between the United Nations and Member States contributing resources to United Nations peacekeeping operations. The Special Committee had therefore requested that the two documents be issued as General Assembly documents by September 2006. The draft comprehensive strategy on victim assistance had been issued on 5 June 2006 as document A/60/877, and the draft memorandum of understanding would be issued during September 2006.

5. In its report the Special Committee expressed its intention to continue its consideration of the issues and to reconvene the Ad Hoc Working Group of Experts from 11 to 15 December 2006, with the possibility of continuing on 18 December 2006, after which it would consider the Working Group's findings. In that regard, it stressed the importance of providing full conference services for its deliberations, both in the Ad Hoc Working Group and at its plenary meetings.

6. He wished to propose three oral amendments to draft resolution A/C.4/60/L.20, which had been agreed by the Bureau of the Committee in consultation with all delegations. First, the existing fourth preambular paragraph should be replaced by a new paragraph, reading, "Reaffirming its resolutions 59/296, 59/300 and 60/263 and the need for the Organization to implement its policy of zero tolerance on sexual exploitation and abuse in United Nations peacekeeping operations as recommended by the Special Committee". Second, in the fifth preambular paragraph the words "the Organization to adopt without delay" should be deleted, and the paragraph should be amended to read, "Affirming the need for a comprehensive strategy for assistance to victims of sexual exploitation and abuse by United Nations staff or related personnel,". Lastly, in the second line of paragraph 3, the word "aforementioned" should be inserted before the word "proposals".

7. **Mr. Zhang** (Secretary of the Committee) said that under paragraph 2 of draft resolution A/C.4/60/L.20, the General Assembly would endorse the proposals, recommendations and conclusions of the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations contained in paragraphs 5 to 10 of its report on its 2006 resumed session (A/60/19/Add.1). Should the General Assembly adopt draft resolution A/C.4/60/L.20, the proposed meetings of the Ad Hoc Working Group would constitute an addition to the calendar of conferences and meetings of the United Nations for 2006. It was estimated that the total cost of the related conference servicing and common support services would be $175,000, comprising $143,800 under section 2, General Assembly and ECOSOC Affairs and

conference management, and $31,200 under section 28D, Central Support Services, of the programme budget for the biennium 2006-2007.

8. Under the procedures established by the General Assembly in its resolutions 41/213 and 42/211, a contingency fund was established for each biennium to accommodate additional expenditure derived from legislative mandates not provided for in the programme budget. Under that procedure, if any proposed additional expenditure exceeded the resources available from the contingency fund, the activities concerned would be implemented only through the redeployment of resources from low-priority areas or the modification of existing activities. Otherwise, such activities would need to be deferred to a later biennium.

9. The additional allocations could not be met from the contingency fund, as other activities charged against the fund were expected to exhaust it. The Secretariat would therefore seek to absorb the requirements within the appropriations under sections 2 and 28D of the programme budget for the biennium 2006-2007. In the event that full absorption was not possible, the Secretariat would report the additional requirements in the context of the second performance report for the biennium 2006-2007, subject to the approval of the General Assembly at its sixty-first session in the context of the consolidated statement of programme budget implications and revised estimates of decisions taken by the Economic and Social Council.

10. **Mr. Morneau** (Canada) said it was essential that the Ad Hoc Working Group should receive full support from the Secretariat for the December 2006 meetings. The relevant documentation should be provided in all languages, and it was particularly important that the two requested documents be provided on time, as they were essential to the Working Group's proceedings.

11. *Draft resolution A/C.4/60/L.20, as orally amended, was adopted.*

**Completion of the Committee's work**

12. **The Chairman** declared that the Committee had completed its work for the sixtieth session.

*The meeting rose at 3.35 p.m.*